

**Some people say that governments should decide upon how many children a family can have in their country. They may control the number of children someone has through taxes.**

**It is sometimes necessary and right for a government to control the population in this way.**

**Do you agree or disagree?**

The major cause associated with crimes these days is over population. Some people feel that the government should have a control over the number of children a family has, connecting it with the taxes. I completely agree that this is the right thing to do.

It is certainly very understandable that some governments should start looking at ways of limiting their populations to a sustainable figure. In the past, populations were partly regulated by frequent war and widespread disease, but in recent years the effects of those factors have been diminished.

Furthermore, countries can be faced with a population that is growing much faster than the nation's food resources or employment opportunities and whose members can be condemned to poverty by the need to feed extra mouths. They identify population control as a means to raising living standards.

On the flip side, many people feel that this is not a matter for the state. They feel this is one area of life where they have the right to make decisions for themselves. For that reason, it would seem that the best approach would be to work by persuasion rather than compulsion.

So, yes, it is sometimes necessary, but governments should try very hard to persuade first. They should also remember that this is a very delicate area indeed, and that social engineering can create as many problems as it solves.